

Gifford Pinchot National Forest — Recovery



USDA FOREST SERVICE

Summer 2010

Eight, Nine, Ten and Counting — GP Bridges Slated for Replacement

With Recovery Act funding, and an underlying goal of creating and saving jobs, the Gifford Pinchot National Forest proposed replacement of eight bridges. Many old treated timber and wooden-stringer bridges were, and are still, in need of replacement to continue to provide access to the Gifford Pinchot.

Assistant Forest Engineer for Operations and Construction, Woody Starr and others thought of using modular steel bridges for this. The Forest used some of these prefabricated structures for timber sales in the past. These portable steel bridges were moved to other active timber sales after completion of the original project.

An agreement with Federal Highway Administration (FHA) provided bridge design assistance by Missoula, Montana based engineering firm, DJ&A.

There are several builders, however. Successful bidders, including Western Montana based engineering firm, RTI, are now fabricating and will deliver bridge building “kits” to the Gifford Pinchot National Forest by mid-July.

These “kits” are packages complete with all materials needed by contractors to construct bridges. They are to be delivered to one of three strategic locations planned for use as staging areas, one each in Packwood, Randle and Pine Creek.

Starr said the Forest Service wanted to help create the maximum number of local jobs. Four initial contracts to remove the old bridges, build abutments, bring the kits to the project sites and complete assembly were awarded in late May to four different local contractors, chosen from among approximately 10 bidders. Starr said this should create numerous local jobs this summer.

These projects will be active from the end of June through late October. Each contractor has two or three bridges to lift into place with large cranes onto abutments they construct.

A ninth bridge replacement is also in the works due to scale-related savings for the forest and taxpayer. This project site lies on the north end at Skate Creek along Forest Road 47. The existing bridge is an old concrete structure that has failed and can no longer provides safe access to a large part of the north end of the Gifford Pinchot.

The contract for the Skate Creek project was advertised in May and opened to bids the second week of June. It is expected to run from July to October at a total cost of about \$854,676. The successful contractor will remove the old bridge, as well as provide and assemble the new bridge.

Continued savings allowed another, tenth bridge project as well. The Jody Mullins Bridge partially collapsed during the floods of 2006. The FHA is now removing the old structure under Emergency Relief for Federally Owned Roads.

Recovery Act funding has allowed a study to find possible alternatives for replacement of the Jody Mullins Bridge. Five alternative bridges have been identified for selection and design, and possible implementation this fall.

Recovery Bridge Projects

- Replace Compass and Crater Creek Bridges
\$214,400.00
- Purchase and Install Skate Creek Bridge
\$854,676.00
- Install Silver Creek and Wilamee Bridges
\$364,600.00
- Install Davis Cr Bridge and Remove Johnson Creek Bridge
\$164,240.00
- Install two East Canyon Bridges and Langille Bridge
\$509,500.00



New metal bridges should hold up to Northwest winters and provide safe Forest visitor use.

Next issue: Recovery Funded Trails Projects



Inside the GPNF

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Several wooden bridges on the GP are in need of replacement.



Woody Starr crossing St. Johns Bridge while running the Portland Marathon.

Meet Woody Starr — Assistant Forest Engineer

Woody Starr is the assistant forest engineer for construction and operations on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. The GP received \$12.5 million in Recovery Act funds in 2009. Of this amount, 47 percent or \$5.66 million was designated for bridge replacements and deferred road maintenance. Woody is the program manager for these Recovery-funded projects.

Woody transferred to the GP in the fall of 1984, overseeing construction and maintenance of roads, trails and bridges. He supervised the Forest Facilities program for nine years and served as Contracting Officer Representative for the first Mount St. Helens visitor center at Silver Lake.

Woody also manages the GP Emergency Relief for Federally Owned Roads program and the Engineering Construction Certification Program. He managed \$47 million of flood repairs from 1995 through 2000.

Woody grew up in Central Pennsylvania on the Susquehanna River. After graduating from Selinsgrove High School, he played two years of college football at Susquehanna University. He then served four years in the US Navy as a Hospital Corpsman. After his honorable discharge from the Navy he worked for a large highway construction company for two years.

In 1966 Woody moved his family to Waldport, Oregon where he began working for the Forest Service as a Survey Party Chief on the Siuslaw National Forest. In the fall of 1966 he returned to college at Oregon State under the GI Bill. He graduated from OSU in 1969 with a bachelor's of science degree in Engineering and in Forest Management.

After graduation, Woody returned to work with the Forest Service in Alaska where he worked on the Tongass and Chugach National Forests. After five years he returned to OSU to complete a Masters degree in Business Administration.

He returned to the Siuslaw where he served as Forest Bridge and Transportation Engineer for three years, and then as the District Engineer at the Alsea District for six years. During this time, he also served as the Resident Engineer for the multi-million-dollar Mammoth Lakes Scenic Highway project in California.

Woody and his wife Judy enjoy outdoor activities including backpacking, cross-country skiing, canoeing and long-distance running. They have each run 37 marathons including races in New York City, Paris, Amsterdam, British Columbia, California, Oregon and five Boston Marathons. They most recently completed an Ultra-Marathon (50 km) in Portland's West Hills Forest Park.

Woody and Judy also enjoy traveling to interesting places and working in their large garden. Woody also raises honey bees. They are active in the Lutheran Church. They enjoy spending time with their eight grandchildren from Oregon, Washington and British Columbia.

"I am very happy to have had the opportunity over the years to bring young people into the Forest Service through the cooperative-education, STEP and SCEP programs," Woody said. "I had the opportunity to supervise and mentor 14 new employees over the years."

"It is especially refreshing to see the quality of young people who are now at the point where they are ready to take on responsibilities and become the future leaders of the Forest Service."